

amendment, we are still in a position where notice to the American government of any such transaction is optional. We do not believe on this side of the aisle it ought to be optional.

Secondly, the committee blocked efforts, again by Mr. SABO, to add \$3.4 billion for crucially needed funding to strengthen port security and border security.

The committee cut back my amendment to provide \$1 billion to help low-income Americans pay for higher energy prices which are in large measure arising today because of our misadventures in Iraq. The committee cut back that effort to \$750 million with no guarantee that a single dollar of that will be provided to people who need it this year.

Then the committee declined to support a provision by Mr. BERRY which would have repaired the prescription drug plan that has now gone into effect and which would have at least given seniors more time to sort out their confusion before they have to commit themselves to signing up for one plan or another.

The committee also refused to adopt, well, to save time, I will skip the other three points that I think were important to discuss, but let me simply say this, Mr. Chairman. There will be a lot of debate on this bill over the next 2 days, and a lot of it will be focused on Iraq. But I think it is important for each and every American to understand and it is important for each and every man and woman representing this country in uniform to understand that our divisions about the advisability of the war and about what ought to happen next in that war have nothing whatsoever to do with our feelings for those who wear the uniform of the United States and are presently engaged in this contest. They have done every possible thing that could be asked of them. We owe them our gratitude for their sense of sacrifice, their willingness to answer the call of their country, and I do not think that turmoil over the advisability of the war ought to be mistaken for disagreement that we owe a debt of obligation to each and every person who is fighting in that war.

I wish we had a similar sense of self-sacrifice on the part of persons who are not participating in that war. It sometimes seems that the only people who are being asked to sacrifice are military families. We are telling the rest of the country, while some folks are off to war, "Do not worry, folks, we are going to give you a nice fat tax cut, and people who make \$1 million a year are going to get \$110,000 tax cut." No sense of self-sacrifice there.

So, Mr. Speaker, I intend to vote for this bill in the end, but we could have adopted a number of amendments which would have made this a much more balanced product, and I would hope that as we go through the debate that we will find a way to at least address some of the issues which we

failed to address when the committee dealt with the bill last week.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding the time and, more importantly, for ushering out this important bill in short time and in good order, and I urge my colleagues to support this supplemental appropriations for the global war on terror and hurricane recovery.

Mr. Chairman, without a doubt, Hurricane Katrina was the worst natural disaster the Nation has ever seen, covering more than 93,000 square miles, claiming over 1,300 lives. Nearly 7 months after landfall, Hurricane Katrina continues to consume us as a Nation, both with recovery and rebuilding, as well as questioning what went wrong and why.

The bill before us today fully funds the ongoing work of FEMA. Since Katrina made landfall, and including the \$9.5 billion in this bill, the Congress has provided more than \$44.5 billion in supplemental funds for Gulf coast recovery just through the Disaster Relief Fund. That is a staggering sum of money, Mr. Chairman, and one that reflects our commitment to help our Nation recover from the devastation of the 2005 hurricane season.

Mr. Chairman, we are a little more than 2 months away from the 2006 hurricane season. I do not think that is a particularly welcome observation for those still recovering from the 2005 season.

I am pleased that this bill includes several important programs that will help us prepare. One of the lessons learned, Mr. Chairman, in Katrina was the importance of early warning and communications. The bill before us today includes \$70 million to allow FEMA to improve public alert, warning and communications systems.

The Bipartisan Committee on Hurricane Katrina and the White House's "Lessons Learned" identified critical failures in FEMA's ability to manage its workload. To address some of those concerns, this bill includes \$5 million to hire additional personnel for logistics management, inventory management, and contract management. With these additional staff on board before the 2006 hurricane season begins, FEMA will be better prepared to position critical assets, as well as plan for short-term recovery operations such as debris removal and housing.

Katrina also showed us that much work remains on both the national response plan and the national incident management system. This bill includes \$5 million to immediately begin a review of those two important documents.

Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased this bill includes funds for ongoing work of

the Coast Guard as it relates to the war on terror and addresses an unexpected shortfall within the Secret Service based on increased protective operations driven by the latest terrorist tactics and the current threat environment.

As reported by the full committee, this bill is free of extraneous matters, and I believe it is important that we maintain that clean bill of health. I suspect there will be attempts to add additional funds to areas deemed critical such as port security, border and immigration security, nuclear non-proliferation, first responders and aviation security. I would remind my colleagues that the 2007 appropriations cycle is already upon us. I believe debate on these very important issues should be reserved and considered within the context of the regular appropriations cycle in which we are engaged even now.

I also understand there may be attempts to take funds from the Disaster Relief Fund and use them for other purposes. I would urge my colleagues to oppose those attempts.

I urge, Mr. Chairman, all of us to support this bill.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friend the distinguished minority leader of the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Chairman, a lot of us on this side and virtually everyone on the other side are going to vote for this bill, but we should do so with considerable reservations.

First of all, two-thirds of it goes to fund the Iraq War; even though, after 4 years, there is still no end in sight. You wonder if this is not more good money going after bad or at least after a mission that has yet to be defined.

We will now have spent \$490 billion from fiscal year 2001 through fiscal year 2007. Mr. Chairman, the cost of the entire Vietnam War, adjusted for inflation, was exactly the same cost that we have now appropriated.

Mr. Chairman, the most credible poll that was just taken showed that three-quarters of the American troops believe that we should withdraw within the year, and over half said it should be within 6 months.

Even more telling, a poll that was conducted on January 28 of this year among Iraqi citizens showed that 82 percent of Sunnis and 69 percent of Shi'a want U.S. troops withdrawn immediately. These are the people that we are trying to save for democracy, and in fact, the majority of both Shi'a and Sunnis believe that the U.S. will hurt, that is their word "hurt," Iraq over the next 5 years unless it withdraws immediately. Mr. Chairman, we need an exit strategy that is going to work and that has the support of the people we're trying to help.

Now the other reservation we have is over the way in which this money is being spent. We are told that about \$8.8